THERMÆ ROMÆ

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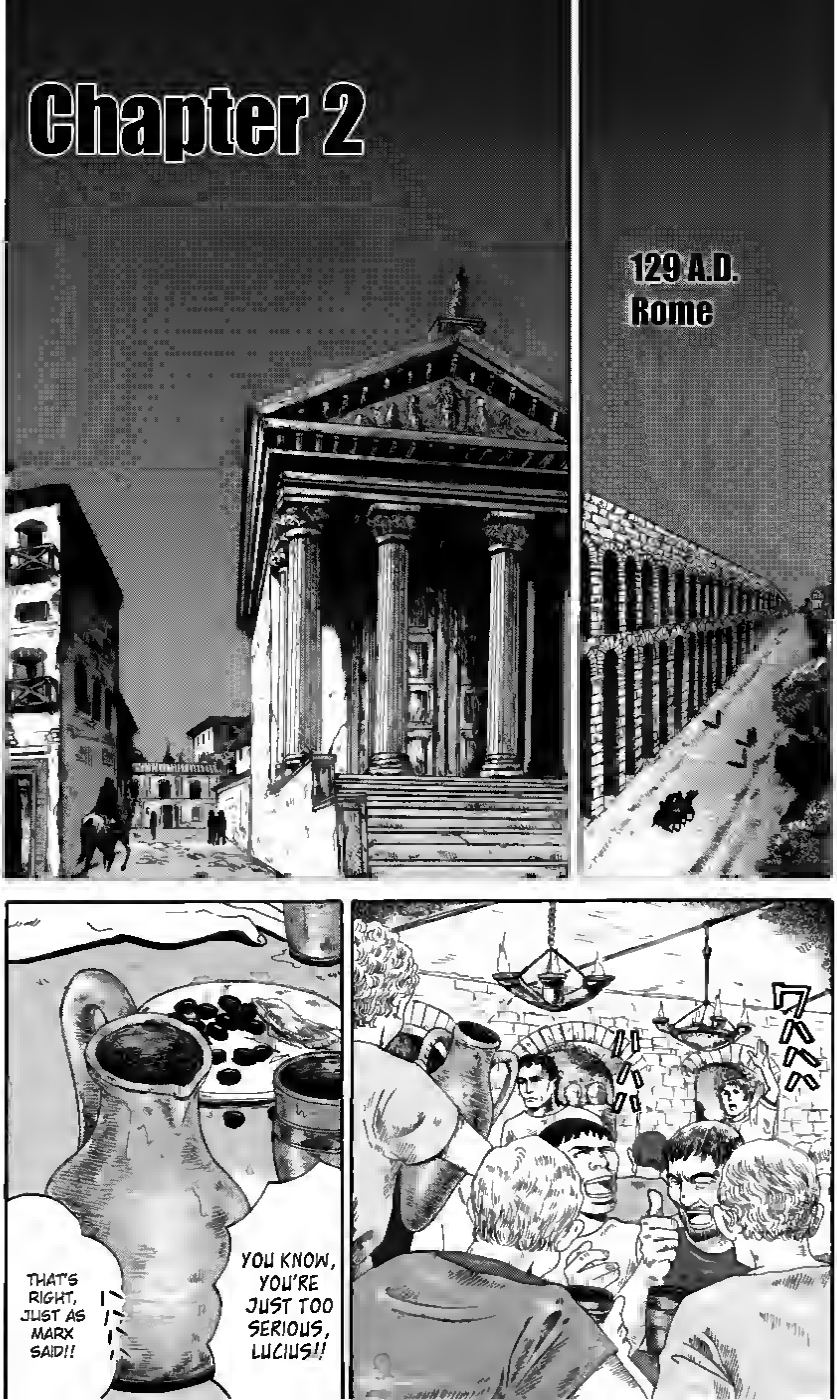
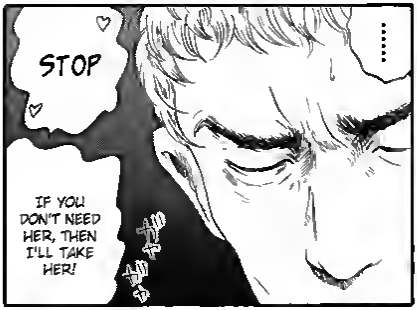

Chapter 2
129 A.D.
Rome
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE JUST TOO SERIOUS, LUCIUS!!
THAT'S RIGHT, JUST AS MARX SAID!!
ワハハ

LOOK, LUCIUS, HOW ABOUT ONE LIKE THIS?
KYA

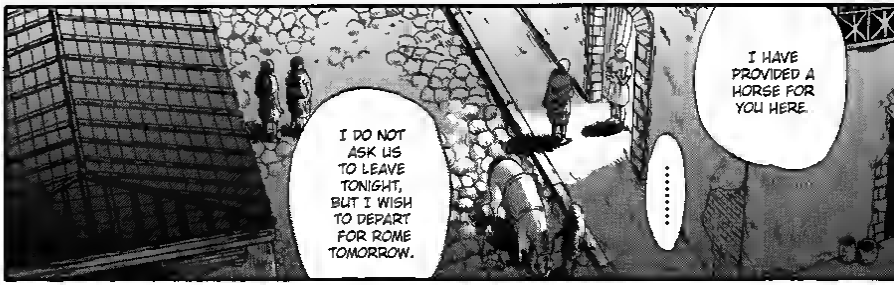
... WON'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE?
HE'S THIS DEPRESSED JUST BECAUSE HE FOUGHT WITH MR. KAMI.
IF IT WERE ME, I WOULD FIND A GIRL TO HAVE FUN WITH AT TIMES LIKE THESE!

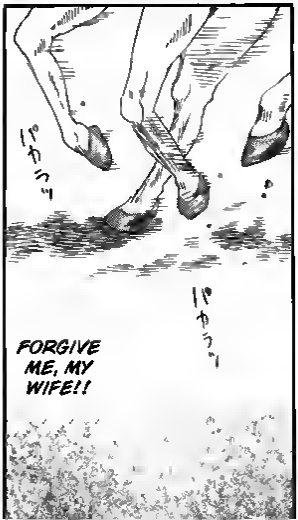

STOP
IF YOU DON'T NEED HER, THEN I'LL TAKE HER!

HERE?

LUCIUS MODESTUS!! IF YOU ARE IN HERE, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME OUT AND STATE YOUR NAME!!
LUCIUS MODESTUS
THE ARTCHI-TECT, LUCIUS MODESTUS!!
I AM A MESSENGER OF CONSUL LEVIDUS.
I AM LUCIUS MODESTUS, BUT...
I...
A LETTER...?
...?
I CAME HERE IN CHARGE OF THIS, FROM MASTER LEVIDUS.
LUCIUS MODESTUS, ARE YOU HERE!?

.....
THE CONSUL WISHES YOU TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY TO HIS COTTAGE IN CAMPANIA PROVINCE.
...IT IS WRITTEN THERE, BUT...


I HAVE PROVIDED A HORSE FOR YOU HERE.
.....
I DO NOT ASK US TO LEAVE TONIGHT, BUT I WISH TO DEPART FOR ROME TOMORROW.


FORGIVE ME, MY WIFE!!

MY WIFE IS DEFINITELY GOING TO BE UPSET AGAIN OVER THIS...

WHAT HAPPENED!? EH!?
OI!? WHAT'S WRONG, LUCIUS!?
TOMORROW

I MUST LIVE LOYALLY AND OBEY THE LAWS OF ROME.
IF THE CONSUL IS SUMMONING ME, I CANNOT DECLINE!
THE CONSUL...
OH...
MASTER HAS BEEN AWAITING YOU HERE.
YOU ARE LUCIUS... THE RENOWNED ARCHITECT OF BATH-HOUSES...
I APOLOGIZE FOR SUMMONING YOU FROM SO FAR AWAY.

....WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE YOU BUILD A BATH OUTSIDE THIS HOUSE?...
THERE IS SOMETHING I WANT TO REQUEST OF YOU IMMEDIATELY, NO MATTER WHAT...
THE TRUTH IS... I ALSO WROTE IT IN THE LETTER, BUT...
I WAS DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE ORIGINAL IDEA OF VIEWING THE MAGNIFICENT AND BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE WHILE SOAKING IN THE HOT WATER
ISN'T THIS MOUNT VESUVIUS...!!
OH!?
A FEW MONTHS AGO, WHEN I COULD STILL STAND AND MOVE, I HAPPENED TO VISIT A BATH-HOUSE SAID TO HAVE BEEN DESIGNED BY YOU...
!!
ガコーン
PARRAS!!
YES
OPEN THAT DOOR OVER THERE!

THIS... THIS IS!!
FUFUFU.. IT IS THE REAL MOUNT VESUVIUS...
I WAS RAISED VIEWING THAT MOUNTAIN FROM THIS COTTAGE
THAT SAME ME HAS ONLY A LITTLE LIFE REMAINING...
ゴホッ ゴホッ
IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO ENJOY THE LITTLE LIFE I HAVE LEFT TO THE FULLEST...
VIEWING THE MOUNTAIN I LOVE, IN THE BATH I LOVE...
CAN YOU NOT MAKE THIS MODEST WISH OF MINE COME TRUE?..
.....
MASTER LUCIUS ...!?

ACCORDING TO MY MASTER'S WISHES, WE HAVE NOT CUT THE GRASS IN THIS AREA AT ALL
A BATH OUTSIDE!? THAT BATHHOUSE I DESIGNED IN ROME SEEMS TO HAVE GIVEN THE CONSUL A STRANGE IDEA.
THE GRASS IS QUITE THICK...
IT SHOULD BE AS EASY AS INSTALLING A TANK FILLED WITH WATER OUTSIDE, BUT...
THIS?
YOU SHALL BE ABLE TO SEE THE MOUNTAIN WELL UNDER THAT TREE OVER THERE...
YES!
BATHHOUSES WERE ORIGINALLY MEANT TO BE CONSTRUCTED INSIDE...
.....
HOW IS IT?
A BATHHOUSE REQUIRES HEATING WATER TO BE HEATED..
.....
HM, I SEE...
IT IS INDEED A SPLENDID VIEW...
I CAN UNDERSTAND WANTING TO BATHE WHILE VIEWING NOT A MURAL BUT THIS SCENERY...

IN TERMS OF WATER, YOU CAN FIND IT HEATED OVER THERE WITHOUT LAYING ANY WATER PIPES AND SUCH
...BUT, MASTER LUCIUS
THERE'S HOT SPRING WATER!?
WHAT!?
YES
IS THE WATER FOR THE COTTAGE DRAWN UP FROM THE AUGUSTA SEWERS SURROUNDING CAMPANIA?
YES...
HOWEVER, IT WILL BE QUITE THE TASK TO LAY WATER PIPES, BUILD THE STRUCTURE AND HEAT THE WATER
YES, THAT IS RIGHT
YES-- HOWEVER, IT WASN'T THIS MUCH WHEN I CAME HERE LAST...
OH?... THIS IS QUITE A LARGE AMOUNT OF WATER, IS IT NOT!?
HM!?
THERE'S HOT SPRING WATER!?
IF THIS MUCH WATER IS NATURALLY HOT, THEN IT SEEMS THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO LAY WATER PIPES...
HMM...
ぶっ
ぶっ
ちゃぷ

THERE IS A RUMOR THAT IT IS NO ORDINARY WATER AS THERE IS NOT A SINGLE FISH...
IT APPEARS THAT WATER HAS BEEN SPRINGING UP HERE SINCE VESUVIUS ERUPTED 50 YEARS AGO
.....
IT'S WARM !!
バサ
I NEVER WOULD HAVE THAT THERE WOULD BE A PLACE WITH HOT UNDERGROUND WATER IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
I HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT THERE ARE SOME PLACES ON THE ITALIAN PENINSULA IN WHICH UNDERGROUND WATER, HEATED BY VOLCANOES, SPRINGS UP, BUT...
HM... IT GETS PROGRESSIVELY HOTTER AS I GO THIS WAY!!
WOAH, MASTER LUCIUS, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
I WOULD LIKE TO PINPOINT THE SOURCE...
ちゃぷっ
ぐらっ
AH

ばしゃん
MASTER LUCIUS !!
WA
THE WATER SEEMS HOTTER AT THE BOTTOM AS WELL...
THIS SPRING APPEARS TO BE UNEXPECTEDLY DEEP...
...FOR NOW, I NEED TO GET OUT.

I CAN'T SEE THE SURCAFE!!?
HM...?
IS THIS ALSO DUE TO THE UNDER-GROUND MAGMA...?
NO.. THAT'S NOT IT. THE WATER IS MUDDY.
SFX: SPLAAASH
BUHA!
REGU-LUS
HA
ANYWAY, I C..N USE THIS HOT WATER FOR THE BATH AS IS!!
OKAY, THE SURFACE!!

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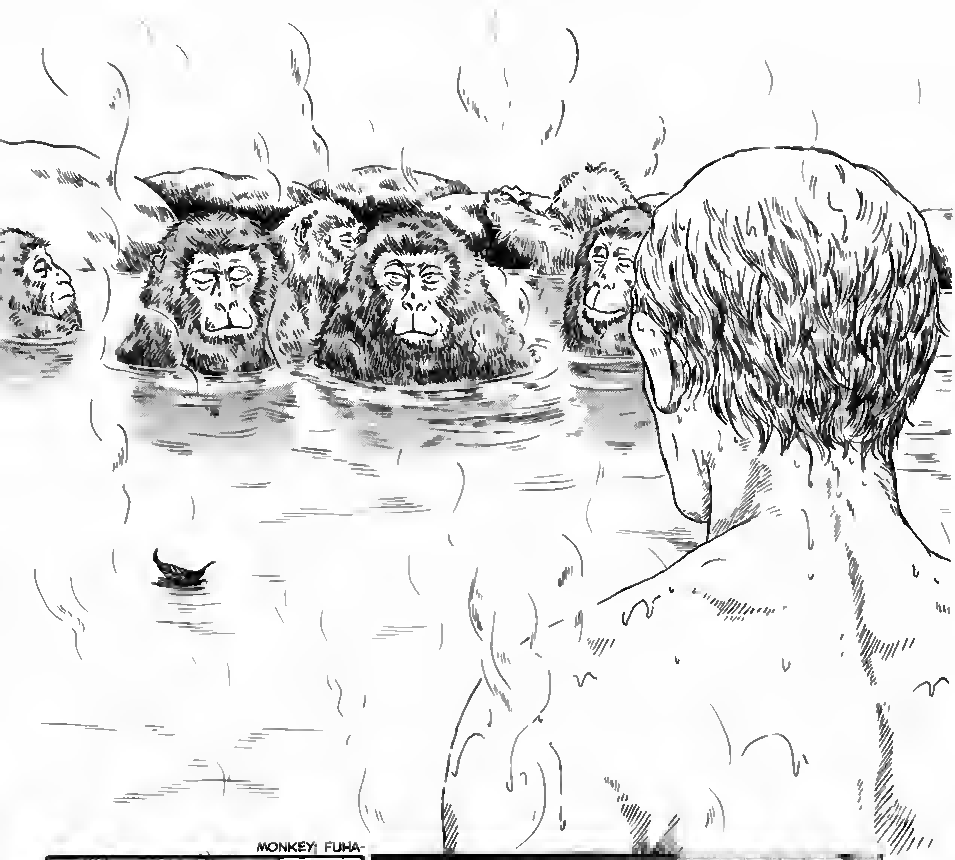
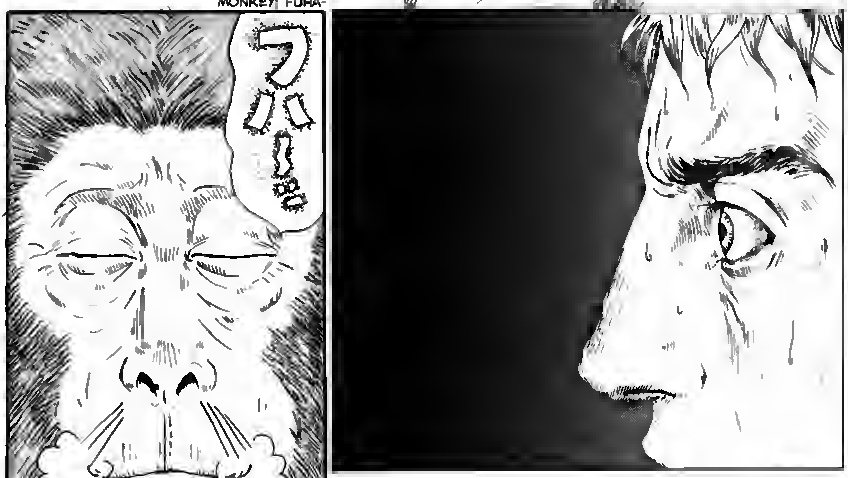
サワ
……
WITH THIS HOT WATER, WE MIGHT NOT NEED SLAVES TO HEAT IT!!
AMAZING !!
サワ
サワ
HEY...
REGULUS?
サワ




MONKEY! FUHA-
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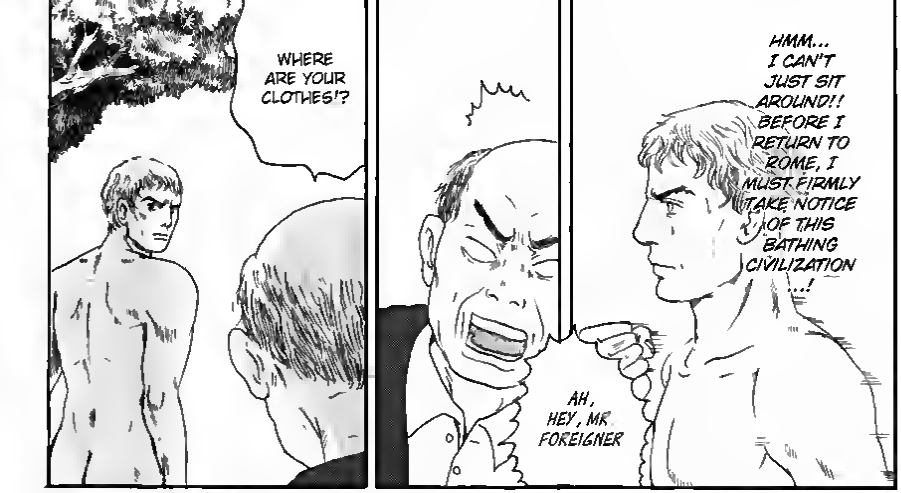
A
WAH
A
SFX: WAH-!
SFX: KIKIKI
キキキィ
SFX: KYA
キャーッ
GET OUT OF HERE!!
WHA WHA WHAT, YOU
AH!?
YOU UNCIVIL BEASTS !!

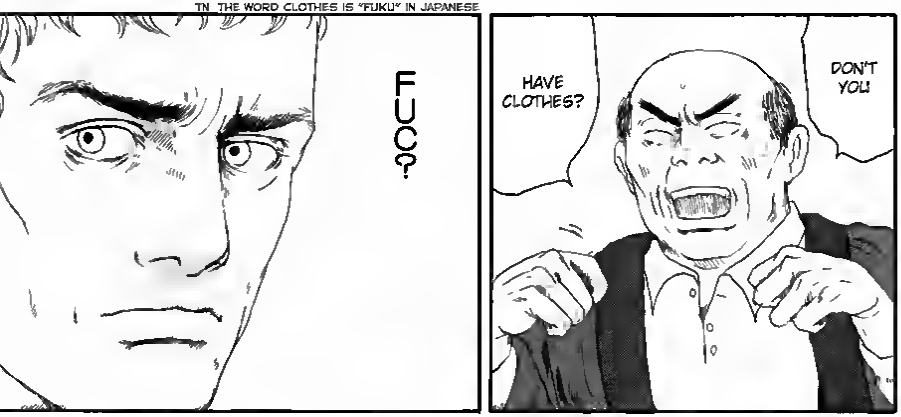
HEY, BAD BAD BAD!!!
SHOO, SHOO!!
GYAH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!
GO AWAY, GO AWAY
THIS BATH IS FOR MONKEYS, HUMANS SHOULDN'T GET IN!
LOOK, CUSTOMER, THIS WILL CAUSE ME TROUBLE!!
DON'T FE THE MONKEY

THIS IS MONKEY BATH, OKAY!?
HERE MONKEY ONLY!!
THIS RACE IS PERHAPS
AH, HE DOESN'T UNDER-STAND JAPANESE
A FOR-EIGNER?
TN: THE WORD YOU IS IN ENGLISH
COULD IT BE...
THIS IS THE MONKEY BATH THAT THE INN BUILT FOR TOURISTS.
YOU GO OVER THERE!! OVER THERE IS THE BATH FOR PEOPLE!!
OKAY!?
YES, THERE'S NO MISTAKE THIS IS DEFI-NITELY THE FLAT FACED TRIBE!!
THE FLAT FACED TRIBE..!
HAVE I RETURNED AGAIN
TO THIS HIGHLY ADVANCED SOCIETY!?

THAT LIKE BEFORE, I ENTERED THIS WORLD THROUGH THE WATER.!?
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT WHEN I SLIPPED AND FELL IN THE SPRING A SECOND AGO...
.....
WHAT ON EARTH COULD THIS MEAN ...?
THE FLAT FACED TRIBE ARE BATHING IN THE HOT WATER...
PEOPLE USE THE ONE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE!!
HOWEVER, I CAN'T BELIEVE EVEN AN ANIMAL LIKE THIS IS SO FOND OF THE BATH.
THE OUTDOOR BATHS WHICH DO NOT YET EXIST IN ROME ARE ESTAB-LISHED HERE AS IF THEY ARE NOTHING...
...AND ON THIS SIDE THERE IS A BATH FOR SOME STRANGE ANIMAL SIMILAR TO A CERTAIN TYPE OF MONKEY...
OKAY !?
.....


WHERE ARE YOUR CLOTHES!?
HMM... I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND!! BEFORE I RETURN TO ROME, I MUST FIRMLY TAKE NOTICE OF THIS BATHING CIVILIZATION...!
AH, HEY, MR FOREIGNER

TN: THE WORD CLOTHES IS "FUKU" IN JAPANESE



.....
LOOK, I'LL LEND YOU THIS SO PLEASE RETURN IT LATER!! IT'S A YUKATA!!
WHAT COULD "FUC" MEAN?
AH, COME ON, I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT. WAIT A MINUTE!

DIFFERENT THAN ROME, IT APPEARS THIS COUNTRY HAS SOME RESISTANCE TO NAKEDNESS.
WITH A TOGA THAT FEELS SO NICE TO THE SKIN, IT WOULD BE COMFORTABLE EVEN WHEN THE BODY IS HOT...
THE FLAT FACED TRIBE WHICH PURSUES THE PLEASURES OF HUMANKIND WITHOUT BEING INFERIOR TO THE ROMANS...
IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO FULLY STUDY THEIR BATHING CIVILIZATION.
THIS IS
THE OUTDOOR BATH FOR HUMANS ...

LATELY FOREIGN CUSTOMERS HAVE INCREASED A LOT.
WAHAHA, IT'S TRUE.
OH!? SOME GUY THAT LOOKS LIKE A GREEK SCULPTURE HAS COME!!
CERTAINLY THERE IS A FEELING OF FREEDOM THAT CAN BE ENJOYED HERE THAT CAN'T BE FELT IN A MAN-MADE BATH SURROUNDED BY WALLS.
ATTEMPTING TO CONSTRUCT A BATH IN A PLACE WITH SUCH A SCENIC VIEW WOULD GIVE GRECIANS AN ASTONISHING AESTHETIC FEELING...
THEY APPEAR TO BE QUITE INFERIOR TO US ROMANS, BUT I CANNOT MAKE LIGHT OF THEM
I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND

WHAT IS THAT?
DOES HE KNOW HOW?
Wahaha
OH, HE GOT IN!!
I'VE GOT TO INVESTIGATE AS MUCH AS I CAN
BY THE WAY, I WONDER HOW THEY DRAIN OUTDOOR BATHS LIKE THESE...
IT MIGHT BE FROM THAT ANIMAL AREA...
I SEE... THEY SEEM TO BE DRAWING THE WATER FROM AN UNDERGROUND SPRING TO HERE....
THIS APPARATUS ITSELF IS FAIRLY PRIMITIVE
.....
I SEE, THE WATER IS DRAINING INTO THE LAKE.
!!
YEA, LOOKING LIKE THAT, IT'S GOTTA BE
IS IT THAT FOREIGNERS FIRST TIME IN THE OPEN AIR OF JAPAN?

THE FLAT FACED TRIBE HAVE SET THEIR SIGHTS ON THE CONVENIENCE OF ANCIENT IDEAS AND BUILT A REVOLUTIONARY OUTDOOR BATH LIKE THIS.
IN THE TIME THAT US ROMANS HAVE BEEN FOCUSING OUR ENERGY ON SEWERS AND HUGE STRUCTURES.
……
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FOR NOW, I CAN'T BE LED ASTRAY BY MY PRIDE AS A ROMAN!!
HOWEVER, LEARNING THE CIVILIZATION OF DIFFERENT TRIBES IS FOR THE SAKE OF ROME'S FUTURE!!
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……
IS THIS ANOTHER SORT OF APPARATUS...?
WHAT IS THAT...
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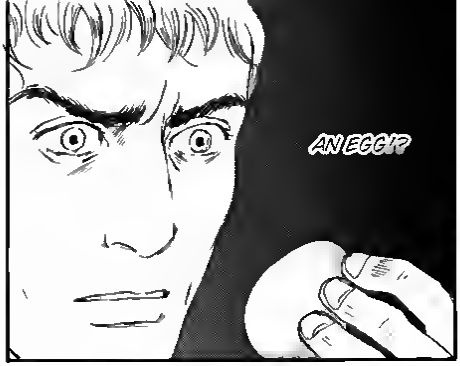
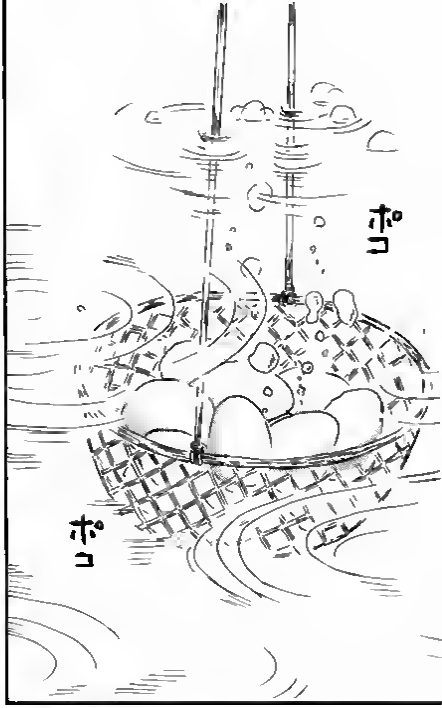

AN EGG!?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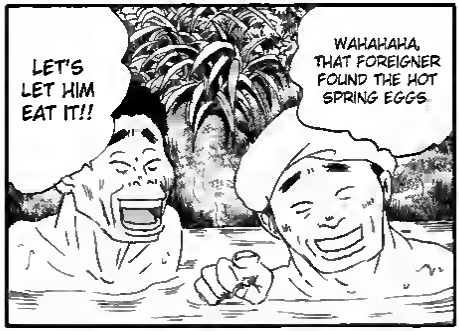
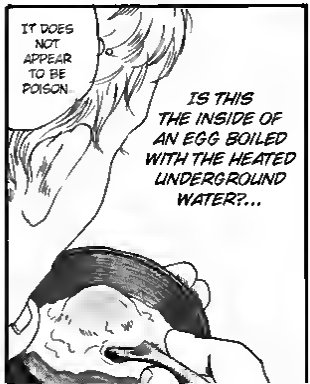

LET'S LET HIM EAT IT!!
WAHAHAHA, THAT FOREIGNER FOUND THE HOT SPRING EGGS

WELL I DON'T KNOW IF THEY HAVE IT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES OR NOT.
HOT SPRING EGGS ARE DELICIOUS, YOU KNOW!?

MR. FOREIGNER, HERE'S ONE WITH THE EGG ALREADY OPENED!!


IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE POISON.
IS THIS THE INSIDE OF AN EGG BOILED WITH THE HEATED UNDERGROUND WATER?...

IS HE TELLING ME TO EAT IT?
YOU SLURP IT IN WITH A SPOON, SLURP IT.

DELI-
CIOUS
...
WHAT IS THIS TEXTURE!? IT'S SOFT BOILED, BUT IT'S NOT..
THERE DOES NOT EXIST SUCH A DELICIOUS BOILED EGG IN ALL OF ROME!!
HMM.. I WONDER IF I CANNOT HAVE ONE MORE..
いかがですか
いかがですか
LOOK, WE ALSO HAVE SAKE.
MR FOREIGNER, SINCE YOU'RE HERE, DRINK THIS AS WELL!
THIS IS HOW TO ENJOY THE OPEN AIR BATHS OF JAPAN.
A DRINK!?
IT HAS QUITE A STRONG SMELL OF FERMENTATION.
DRINK IT UP, DRINK IT UP
IT'S NOT POISON.

IT MATCHES THE EGG EXTREMELY WELL!!
DELICIOUS!
くい
ごくり
BUT IT APPEARS THAT WAS WRONG...
MR. FOREIGNER HAS GOOD TASTES.
HAVE ANOTHER!!
I WAS WITHOUT DOUBT THAT AS A ROMAN I HAD LEARNED OF ALL THE PLEASURES THAT ARE POSSIBLE IN THIS WORLD, BUT...
OH!?
LOOK, ANOTHER EGG!
I FEEL THAT I AM SLOWLY LOSING CONTROL OF MYSELF...
UHAHA, HE'S A NATURAL!!
ろいは
WHAT IS THIS TREMENDOUS COMFORTABLE FEELING...
MR FOREIGNER IS FEELING GOOD

HEY, EAT IT
AS A ROMAN I MUST NEVER LOSE BALANCE NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION IS...
THIS MIND OF MINE HAS ZERO ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS RIGHT NOW!!
THIS IS BAD!!
YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT MY CHEST SINCE A WHILE AGO!! IT'S EMBARASSING
MR. FOR-EIGNER
THAT MAN APPEARS TO HAVE WHAT LOOKS LIKE LONG BREASTS ON HIS CHEST.. OR IS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION?
WAHAHAHA YOU DIDN'T THINK HE WAS A WOMAN, DID YOU!?
AGAIN...?
AH..?
I WOULD EVEN WANT TO STAY ABROAD IN THIS COUNTRY, BUT...
THERE ARE NO LIMITS TO WHAT I CAN LEARN FROM THEM...
THESE PEOPLE POSSESS SENSES EQUAL TO THOSE OF ROME
ONE THING IS CERTAIN
It's too sad I'm an old hag... Gahahaha

PLEASE BE STRONG, MASTER LUCIUS!!
MASTER LUCIUS!? ARE YOU OKAY!?

AGAIN IT ENDED ALL TOO SOON...
....
REGULUS
M...
IS IT OKAY TO STAND UP!?
MASTER LUCIUS!!
.....

WE WILL IMMEDIATELY BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN OUTDOOR BATH!!
EH..!?
AH, YES!!
WE WILL STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS STILL HOT!!

ALIQVANTO POST

I HAVE GAINED MY STRENGTH THANKS TO BATHING IN THE OUTDOOR BATH THAT YOU BUILT FOR ME...
...AFTER THAT TIME, HOW HAS YOUR HEALTH BEEN, MASTER LEVIDUS?
.....
I TRULY ADMIRE YOUR WONDERFUL SKILL FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.
CONSUL LEVIDUS, IT HAS BEEN QUITE A LONG TIME,
I APOLOGIZE FOR SUMMONING YOU FROM FAR AWAY!!
FROM MY POINT OF YOU, I HAVE DONE MORE THAN IMITATE THAT WORLD FROM THE START...
IT'S HERE, MASTER LUCIUS!!

THIS IS REALLY A WONDERFUL OUTDOOR BATH!!
BUT I ENDED UP WITH ANOTHER CHILD WITH A NEW WIFE!!
WAHAHA!! THANKS TO YOU, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DIE IN THIS BATH,
CONSUL LEVIDUS!?
AND EAT EGGS OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY BOILED IN THIS WATER EVERY DAY?
I WONDER, DID THIS HAPPEN BECAUSE I BATHE IN THE WATER WHILE DRINKING WARM WINE LIKE THIS AS PER YOUR ADVICE
WAS THERE SUCH AN EFFECT IN THESE WATERS!?
I SEE... THAT IS GREAT NEWS...
?
...THAT, OVER THERE...
YES, WHAT IS IT?
...BUT YOU KNOW... THE REASON I CALLED YOU THIS TIME WAS BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THAT HAS INTERESTED ME...

... DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
THEY DO NOT DO ANY DIRECT HARM, SO IT IS FINE, BUT...
N...NO, I DO NOT KNOW... HAHAHA..
WHA...
I SEE, WELL THEN I SUPPOSE I'LL JUST LET IT BE.
AYAH, HOW DOES IT PLAN TO RETURN HOME...!?

Thermæ Romæ Chapter 2
by
Clockwork Lies Scanlation

Rome & Bathhouses, my love

I once travelled to the Vulcano Island (a volcanic island) of Eolie Islands which lie to the North oe Sicily. In the volcanic island, there was a place with a boiling mud bath that emitted a rotten egg smell which would definitely make you pinch your nose shut. All of a suddfn, a Japanfse man shouted "I... I can't take it anymore!" Following that, hf wfnt ahead and undressed and plunged right into the mud bath.

He might have seen that there were people soaking in the bath while wearing their swimsuits and decided that it was not a place prohibited from entering. It was probably at that time where he had the sudden urge to reducf his fatigue that had accumulated during the long journey. His entire body was covered in grey mud with hot steam emitting from it. "Ahhh~~ this is the best!" He shouted while grinning from ear to ear. Looking at his face, I was filled with the thought that "as expected, thfre's no way that Japanese can do without hot springs".

However, during that night, without knowing the causf, that man was down with a really high fever and had to spend the rest oe the tour in such a bad physical condition. He barely managed to return to Japan and had to be takfn away by an ambulance when he reached the airport.

Well, the natural bathhouses on Vulcano Island must be safe for their users since they are opened to the public. It might be possible that the compositions of the hot spring content were too strong for him. The main p oint I'm saying here is that, he got seriously ill after soaking in thf bath.

Neverthelfss, as p eople born in a volcanic country, it is the nature oe the Japanese to go "It's the hot spring! I really want to enter it!" whenever they catch the smell of the sulphur... This nature applied to the ancient Romans as well.

In Japan, you can also find hot springs in places that can become risky if you takf a step wrongly. In the farly timfs of ancient Rome, a hot spring was eound to have gushed out from the place beside Mount Vesuvius, the volcano that once had a great eruption.

A standard size postcard of Naples with a mountain sea and fine trees entering your view

The interior design of a bath house (Pompei-Italy)

vol.2

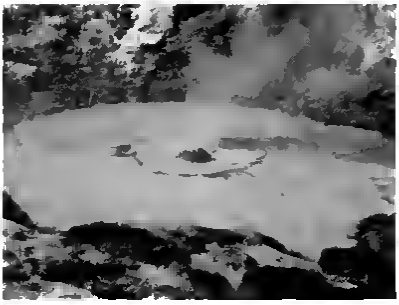
It was said that in the B C era, that was the gathering place of the locals. Hence, during the times of great disasters, it was possible that there were people who had no idea of what was happening around them and continued to immerse their body in that place while thinking "Ahhh, what a great bath".....

Both the Japanese and Ancient Romans love taking bath and I believe that this commonality stemmed erom the very eact that both races live in volcanic countries.

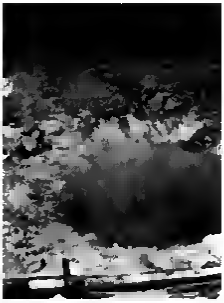
It's just that, I really have no idea if there was any open-air bath, like what Japan has, that allowed one to enjoy the scenic landscapes during the ancient Rome era.

For the Romans, the things they saw around them were not landscapes but elegant sculptures. The Romans would enjoy their baths with the beauty of those bodies (sculptures) and all baths with hot springs gushing into it had the same decorations.

If I have a chance to bring an Ancient Roman to Japan, I would like to let them experience a dip in an open-air bath and enjoy the view of Mt. Fuji from there. Maybe, with that as the "triggering point", we might be able to find in Ancient Rome an "open-air bath with picturesque view" where we can catch the full view of Mount Vesuvius or the Bay oe Naples.



This is also a hot spring gushing out in Hachimantai



Akiba Prefecture. A hot spring gushing out in Hachimantai